

# TALENT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Incorporated June 23, 1994

206 E. Main

Talent, OR 97540

(541) 512-8838

It's a new year and a new format for your news letter. Do you like it? Please let us know. We want this to be **your** news letter, so your input is important - not only about the format but about the content as well. There is a great deal of history in and around Talent. Some of it may be tucked away in your cupboards and drawers, in books or pictures or in the memory corners of your mind. Please share them with us. Those are the items that give Talent its unique character and which will make it "home" to young and old residents of this city. We look forward to hearing from you.

LISA OVERTON



Have you met the newest member of our Museum staff? Lisa came to work for us on October 6, 1997 and has been a wonderful asset in our office. She hails from Baker City, OR where she learned many of her office skills while working as receptionist in a wood product company. When not at the THS Museum, Lisa attends SOU where she intends to major in Psychology. Her career goal is in counseling. The flexible hours which THS is able to offer Lisa works well for all concerned. We hope she will be with us throughout her college days.

## THE FIRST OF ITS KIND AND WELL DESERVED

### The First Annual **Volunteer Of The Year**

Has Been Awarded To

Katherine Harris

for

outstanding participation and citizenship in the

**TALENT HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

presented on this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December

# 1997

Katherine is in her second term as Secretary of the Board of Directors for THS. Her service extends far beyond those duties, however. Whether it is welcoming visitors to the Museum, arranging for "sweet treats" for our social functions or running numerous errands related to THS business, Katherine is always here with a cheerful smile and energetic spirit.





## OF THE PAST

"During a heavy snow melt runoff in the late summer of 1935, someone took out both of our flood gates to divert some of the water through the side ditch as water was flooding onto the nearby main road. At a large curve the water went over the road and down into a lowland farm flooding the crops. When Dad went down to get the cow from the pasture late that afternoon, he noticed the heavy flow of water coming through our ditch so opened our gate into the orchard. He was going to irrigate the next day anyway so got the cow milked and bedded down. He had supper and then went back to check the water and realized the fish gate must also be open. The orchard near the ditch at the back property line was flooding and good sized steelhead were flopping around in the cover crop of vetch and alfalfa. He hurried to the house, got all of us organized filling buckets and tubs with clean water and then said, 'You boys grab pails and come with me and keep quiet.' They soon came down, buckets filled with fish which were transferred to the clean water and then went back for more. I begged to help as this was very exciting. Barefoot, splashing mud and water all over myself and feeling free, I worked the ditch in which Dad had put a wire screen so the fish could not escape. He said, 'Throw all back that are under six inches.' This was fun and something I had never done before. I mind being wet and muddy - it just didn't matter. I didn't need to talk, jumping and splashing was a happy thing for me. There was a sort of mystery about this that was urging us all on.

"After about 2 hours we'd gathered all the fish we could find. It was too dark to see more. Dad said in a low voice, 'Any more won't be fresh and will be buried tomorrow.'

"Then Dad went to certain neighbors who came over with pans and buckets. He gave them fish and asked them to not say anything. Everyone agreed. They were hungry and the fish were very welcome during lean time of the Great Depression. The fish had to be eaten immediately as none of us had refrigeration. He said smoking it was too smelly. He did something else I hadn't seen before. Each pan or bucket had a piece of paper on top of the fish and then cull apples to fill up the rest of the space. He was hiding the fish!

"The next morning Dad looked but didn't find any dead one in the orchard. There were hobos cooking under the trestle and he could smell fish while irrigating.

"The local people hated the unfair laws that the fish were only for those who could afford the licenses and did it for sport. This free fish seemed to pay back as they had fished from the creek for

years before the laws were written. They took only what was needed for food"

Childhood memories of Lucille Young Bent now living in Oakland, CA. She is the daughter of Floyd and Nell Young, owners of the Columbia Orchard in Talent in the 1930s. Nell Young was a long time teacher in the Talent School system and was active in community activities.

**WHERE IS IT?** There is a mail box in Talent with the oldest address in the city clearly indicated? Can you find it? Drop by or call the THS Museum with your answer when you find it. Winners will be named in the next news letter.



### Let's GROW our Membership

Do you know someone who is interested in history and would like to join THS? Talk to them about becoming a member, or purchase a membership for them. It would make a wonderful birthday or Valentine Day gift. Visit our Museum and bring friends to see our various interesting exhibits. We know you will like what you see, and perhaps you have some items that will enhance our displays. Your own enthusiasm will inspire others. We would like to see our members taking a more active part in the development and activities of the Museum. Drop by and get acquainted with the Board, staff and volunteer members.

### Board of Directors

President:	Bud Gleim
Vice President:	Alice Burnette
Secretary:	Katherine Harris
Treasurer:	Dewey Talent
Directors	Tom Moulder, Helen Sieber, Barbara Smith, Betty Smith, Betty Welburn

### Museum Staff:

Director:	Myrna Holden
Office Manager:	Lisa Overton

# **U.S. PRESIDENTIAL MEMORABILIA**

COLLECTED BY

**MATTHEW BAKER**

**TALENT HISTORICAL SOCIETY** proudly sponsors this exhibit.

It will be featured at the **TALENT PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
throughout the month of **FEBRUARY**.

**MATTHEW BAKER**, A FORMER TALENT RESIDENT,  
IS THE ELEVEN-YEAR OLD SON OF **MR. AND MRS. ALAN BAKER** NOW OF MEDFORD, AND THE  
GRANDSON OF **JOE AND PAULINE BAKER** LONG TIME, CIVIC-MINDED TALENT CITIZENS.  
**MATTHEW** BEGAN HIS PRESIDENTIAL COLLECTION FOUR YEARS AGO ON LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY



**Office hours:**

Tuesday & Wednesday  
12:00 noon - 4:00 p.m..  
Friday & Saturday  
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**Membership dues:** Individuals - \$ 8.00  
Families 12.00  
Junior 5.00  
Business 50.00

**FROM YOUR REGISTRAR - Rosemary Bevel**

Years ago, merchants and businesses of all kinds often included in their packaged products small gifts (cups, toys, etc.) for their customers, or items like calendars, pencils, etc. with a business name imprinted were handed out by local merchants. The Museum is looking for just such items. Perhaps you have one tucked away in some odd drawer or cupboard. Would you be willing to lend or give it to THS?

The Museum has recently acquired a new reproduction, size map of Jackson County dated 1910 - the year of Talent's incorporation. Talent and its land owners are fully represented there. Come and see this marvelous piece of handmade cartography. It shows what the "lay-of-the-land" looked like just as Talent became a city.

We continue to seek photos and archival material relating to old time Talent area businesses. If you can help with information, pictures or data of any kind, we would very much appreciate it.

THS is building its collection. Donations of historic value are welcome as well as monetary gifts that allow us to purchase items for the museum. Your gift may be tax deductible. For further information, contact the museum office.

**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

January 19, 1998 - Martin Luther King Day  
February 2, 1998 - Ground Hog Day  
February 12, 1998 - Lincoln's Birthday  
February 14, 1998 - Oregon's 139th Birthday

February 16, 1998 - Presidents' Day  
February 22, 1998 - Washington's Birthday  
March 1998 - National History Month  
March 1998 - Woman's History Month  
March 20, 1998 - Spring Begins  
May - Whole Cloth Exhibits county-wise

**A BIT OF HISTORY**

Some 7,000 Donation Land Claims were filed in Oregon. By 1900 few of them were owned by the families of the original claimants. "But from these sections and half-sections of donation lands came the sturdy men and women who built Oregon. One of the interesting consequences of the Donation Law was that it gave recognition - unusual at the time - to women by permitting them to hold their claims in their own right. This did not assure their independence, but it did assure any woman of barely marriageable age a husband."

*The Roll of Land Laws in the Settlement of Oregon*, - Dorothy O. Johansen

**1998 Museum Activities:**

*Toys of Yesteryear* continued to be an attractive exhibit for the "young" at heart." during January. Classes from Talent Elementary School and Brownie Troops had fun visiting these playthings from the past. If you haven't done so yet, stop in soon for a nostalgic memory trip. You'll be glad you did.

February and March are birthday months for Campfire Girls, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts in the Talent area. The Museum wants to honor them with an exhibit but information is needed. Can you help with any of the following? Names of The Troop Pack and Circle

Names of leaders, coordinators, members  
Stories of the various group activities and accomplishments.

"If you have any memorabilia or artifacts to lend, we would appreciate talking with you. As always the loan is only for the length of the exhibit and we provide loan documents to record each item." Myma Holden, Director

**Newsletter Committee:**

Alice Burnette, Bud Gleim and Yvonne Reynolds

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Eagle Point, OR 97524



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